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09/681,593	05/03/2001	G. Thomas Williams	71362-2	6739

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2174	4

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>03 May 2001</u> .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-23</u> is/are pending in the application.

     4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-7, 9-16, and 18-22</u> is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) <u>8, 17, and 23</u> is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>03 May 2001</u> is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

     If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

     a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1.   The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly

indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The title should be made shorter and

more concise.

2.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 4, ¶ 0009, 1st Sentence – this sentence incorrectly refers to "any of the preceding

method claims"

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
> in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for
> patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
> international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
> subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
> States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4.   Claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Microsoft Excel ("MS Excel," Microsoft Excel 2000 Screen Dumps Figures 1-7).

As per independent claim 1, MS Excel teaches a method for organizing information

relating to the interpretation of multiple information elements from at least one reference source

comprising:

a.   forming a matrix having a first predetermined number of rows and a second

predetermined number of columns defining matrix elements at the intersections of the

rows and columns, wherein each of one the first predetermined number of rows and the

second predetermined number of columns of the matrix correspond to an information

element and each of the other of the first predetermined number of rows and the second

predetermined number of columns correspond to the at least one reference source (figure

3).

b.   determining a reference location within the at least one reference source relating

to the interpretation of an information element and setting the reference location to null if

no information relating to the interpretation of the information element exists in the at

least one reference source (figure 3, element 6).

c.   inserting the reference location into the matrix element in the matrix

corresponding to the particular information element and the particular at least one

reference source (figure 3, element 3).

d.   repeating each of steps (2) and (3) for each of the multiple information elements

and the at least one reference source; whereby the location in the at least one reference

source corresponding to the interpretation of a particular information element can be

found at the matrix element at the intersection in the matrix corresponding to the

information element to be interpreted and the at least one reference source (figure 3)

As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, MS Excel teaches that the multiple

information elements comprise patent claim elements (figure 3, element 2).

Claim 10 is similar in scope to claim 2, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 3, which is dependent on claim 2, MS Excel teaches that the at least one

reference source comprises at least one item selected from the group consisting of a patent

specification, patent claims, patent drawings, a prosecution history and at least one prior art

document (figure 3, element 1).

Claim 11 and 18 are similar in scope to claim 3, and are therefore rejected under similar

rationale.

As per claim 4, which is dependent on any of claims 1-3, MS Excel is a graphical user

interface incorporating the above methods.

As per independent claim 5, MS Excel teaches a graphical user interface for organizing

and presenting information relating to the interpretation of multiple information elements from

at least one reference source comprising:

a.   an array having a first predetermined number of rows and a second predetermined

number of columns defining matrix elements at the intersections of the rows and columns

(figure 3).

b.   each of one of the first predetermined number of rows and the second

predetermined number of columns of the matrix correspond to an information element

(figure 3, element 2).

c.   each of the other of the first predetermined number of rows and the second

predetermined number of columns correspond to the at least one reference source (figure

3, element 1).

d.   wherein the matrix elements contain a link to a reference location within the at

least one reference source relating to the interpretation of an information element (figure

3, element 3, *clicking on an element in a cell will automatically open and display (open a link to) the requested document at the predetermined location*).

e.   setting the link to null if no information relating to the interpretation of the information element exists in the at least one reference source (figure 3, element 6).

f.   a customizable workspace viewable by a user wherein the links within the array can be selectively activated and viewed by the user (figure 4 and figure 5, *figure 5 shows a reference document that the user could view upon activating a link within the array*).

Claims 14 and 20 are similar in scope to claim 5f, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 6, which is dependent on claim 5, MS Excel teaches that the customizable workspace further comprises a first border, wherein the first border contains headings corresponding to the multiple information elements (figure 3, element 4).

Claims 15 and 21 are similar in scope to claim 6, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 7, which is dependent on claim 6, MS Excel teaches that the customizable workspace further comprises a second border, wherein the second border contains headings corresponding to the at least one reference source (figure 3, element 5).

Claims 16 and 22 are similar in scope to claim 7, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per independent claim 9, MS Excel teaches a system for organizing information relating to the interpretation of multiple information elements from at least one reference source comprising:

a.   a matrix having a first predetermined number of rows and a second predetermined

number of columns defining matrix elements at the intersections of the rows and columns

(figure 3).

b.   each of one of the first predetermined number of rows and the second

predetermined number of columns of the matrix correspond to an information element

(figure 3, element 2).

c.   each of the other of the first predetermined number of rows and the second

predetermined number of columns correspond to the at least one reference source (figure

3, element 1).

d.   each of the matrix elements comprises one of: a reference location value

representative of a location within the at least one reference source relating to the

interpretation of the corresponding information element (figure 3, element 3, *clicking on*

an element in a cell will automatically open and display (open a link to) the requested

document at the predetermined location).

e.   a null value if no information relating to the interpretation of the information

element exists in the at least one reference source (figure 3, element 6).

f.   the location in the at least one reference source corresponding to the interpretation

of a particular information element can be found at the matrix element at the intersection

in the matrix of the row corresponding to the information element to be interpreted and

the column corresponding to the at least one reference source (figure 3, element 3).

As per claim 12, which is dependent on claim 9, MS Excel teaches a graphical user

interface adapted to display at least one of the reference location values stored in the matrix

(figure 3, element 3 and figure 5, *figure 5 shows a reference document that the user could view upon activating a link within the array*).

As per claim 13, which is dependent on claim 12, MS Excel teaches at least one data file representative of the information contained in the at least one reference source (figures 5 and 7, *figures 5 and 7 show a reference document that the user could view upon activating a link within the array*).

Claim 19 is similar in scope to claim 13, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 17, and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The feature wherein a user can display the reference information contained by a particular link in the array by clicking on one of the headings in the first border and one of the headings on the second border, wherein the link corresponding to the array element is thereby activated is allowable. This feature is allowable as it provides a novel method of selecting and opening a link within a matrix layout of a graphical user interface to organize and display information.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jordan S Golinkoff whose telephone number is 703-305-8771. The examiner can normally be reached on 5 - 4/9 Compressed Work Schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Jordan Golinkoff
Patent Examiner
November 6, 2003

KRISTINE KINCAID
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